

# Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Membership Balance Plan

Please read the [Federal Advisory Committee Membership Balance Plan Guidance](#) prior to completing this form

<b>(1) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME</b> <i>State the legal name of the FAC</i>
Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women
<b>(2) AUTHORITY</b> <i>Identify the authority for establishing the FAC</i>
Title IX of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005) requires the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct a national baseline research study on violence against Indian women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and murder. Title IX of VAWA 2005 also required the Attorney General to establish a Task Force to assist NIJ with development of the research study and the implementation of the recommendations.
<b>(3) MISSION/FUNCTION</b> <i>Describe the mission/function of the FAC</i>
<p>The Task Force has the following objectives and scope of activities:</p> <p>(A) To assist the United States Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice and Office on Violence Against Women in the development and implementation of a program of research that addresses Title IX, section 904 of VAWA 2005, which will (1) examine violence against Indian women in Indian country, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and murder and (2) evaluate the effectiveness of Federal, State, tribal, and local responses to these crimes.</p> <p>(B) To assist in the implementation of research program recommendations to improve the effectiveness of Federal, State, tribal, and local responses to these crimes.</p>
<b>(4) POINTS OF VIEW</b> <i>Based on understanding the purpose of the FAC,</i> <i>(a) describe the process that will be used to ensure the committee is balanced, and identify the categories (e.g. individual expertise or represented interests) from which candidates will be considered;</i> <i>(b) consider identifying an anticipated relative distribution of candidates across the categories; and</i> <i>(c) explain how a determination was made to appoint any individuals as Special Government Employees or Representative members</i>
Pursuant to statute, the membership of the Task Force must be comprised of representatives from national tribal domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and national tribal organizations. The Office on Violence Against Women will collaborate with the National Institute of Justice in submitting Representative member nominations for the Attorney General's approval. OVW has selected to designate the FAC members as "representatives," with the purpose of each member providing advice and guidance that represents the views of practioners, experts, and advocates in each of the respective areas of expertise from which the member was chosen. Task Force members are expected to present the views of a non-governmental organization or group which he or she represents, or for which he or she is in a position to speak, and do not act on behalf of the Government and are not its officer or employee.

#### **(5) OTHER BALANCE FACTORS**

*List any other factors your agency identifies as important in achieving a balanced FAC*

OVW and NIJ are interested in having a wide range of experience as far as subject matter expertise and professional background. OVW and NIJ are interested in having members who had experience with research in Indian country including people who had performed such research or been members of communities who had been the subject of research.

#### **(6) CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

*Summarize the process intended to be used to identify candidates for the FAC, key resources expected to be tapped to identify candidates and the key persons (by position, not name) who will evaluate FAC balance. The summary should:*

- (a) describe the process*
- (b) identify the agency key staff involved (by position, not name)*
- (c) briefly describe how FAC vacancies, if any, will be handled by the agency; and*
- (d) state the membership term limit of FAC members, if applicable*

In compiling a list of potential members, OVW (Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs) will solicit recommendations from numerous inter-tribal councils, national tribal domestic violence and sexual assault organizations, and national tribal organizations. The announcement will be sent to all 563 federally recognized tribes as well as to the Office of Justice Programs' list of the approximately 2400 tribal delegates to the Tribal Justice and Safety sessions. After OVW receives recommendations from these groups, OVW will consult with NIJ in compiling a list of proposed members which includes a total of 14 representatives, representatives from each of the statutorily required categories, and, for continuity, includes some individuals who previously served as members on the Task Force. The OVW Director will make the final decisions about which members to recommend to the Attorney General. Selection of committee members is made based upon the FACA's requirements and the potential member's background and qualifications. For the Task Force, the Attorney General has the responsibility for final approval of members.

Collectively, these individuals will possess a broad and varied knowledge of the nature of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and murder committed against American Indian/ Alaska Native women and effective responses to those crimes, challenges unique to Indian country, the complexities of tribal law and jurisdictional issues, and the cultural considerations that must be observed when conducting research in tribal communities. The proposed members should also geographically diverse. These individuals will provide the Department with helpful and realistic advice during the continued development and implementation of NIJ's program of research.

OVW staff (attorney/advisor) will perform public record checks of the proposed members including internet searches. OVW staff will also speak to potential members by phone to determine their interest in serving on the Task Force and to ask general vetting questions. OVW staff will perform a review of DOJ databases and check that no individual potential member or organization affiliated with the potential members appear on the OJP High Risk List, OIG investigation summary, or the Excluded Parties List.

#### **(7) SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE**

*Subcommittees subject to FACA\* should either state that the process for determining FAC member balance on subcommittees is the same as the process for the parent FAC, or describe how it is different*

*\*This is relevant to those agencies that require their subcommittees to follow all FACA requirements.*

#### **(8) OTHER**

*Provide any additional information that supports the balance of the FAC*

<b>(9) DATE PREPARED/UPDATED</b>
<i>Insert the actual date the Membership Balance Plan was initially prepared, along with the date(s) the Plan is updated</i>
<b>April 11, 2016</b>